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J JACK ANDERSON'S WASHINGTON LETTER
October 1985 Volume II, No. 19

FOREIGN OUTLOOK: ITEMS FROM MY NOTEBOOK

What's the story behind the West German spy scandal? The hemorrhage of defectors to the Soviet bloc from West German intelligence has U.S. and other Western intelligence officials tearing their hair. But they weren't surprised.

They explained that Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher stacked the top echelon of BND, the independent intelligence agency, with his own men. He wanted to insure that BND's evaluations wouldn't differ from the foreign ministry's. Result: There was no rival agency that might have blown the whistle on communist infiltration.